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2 THINGS TO KNOW

For the latest updates on Harvey Weinstein: **metro.us**

More than 70 women have accused Harvey Weinstein of sexual misconduct. He's expected to turn himself in to police on Friday. GETTY IMAGES

Movie producer Weinstein to surrender on sex assault charges

Film producer Harvey Weinstein was expected to surrender to authorities in New York on Friday, months after he was toppled from Hollywood's most powerful ranks by scores of women accusing him of sexual assault, a person familiar with the case said.

Weinstein's spokesman Juda Engelmayer and Weinstein's lawyer Benjamin Brafman both declined to comment. The imminent criminal charging of Weinstein, which was first reported by the New York Daily News, follows a months-long investigation, including by the Manhattan district attorney's office. A person familiar with the case confirmed the report to Reuters on condition of anonymity. The New York Times and other news outlets also reported Weinstein was expected to surrender.

More than 70 women have accused the co-founder of the Miramax studio and The Weinstein Co. of sexual misconduct spanning decades, including rape. The allegations, first reported by the New York Times and the New Yorker last year, gave rise to the #MeToo movement in which hundreds of women have publicly accused powerful men in business, government and entertainment.

Weinstein has denied having nonconsensual sex with anyone.

Weinstein will be charged over an allegation by at least one accuser, Lucia Evans, a former aspiring actress who told the New Yorker that Weinstein forced her to give him oral sex in 2004, the Times and Daily News reported. The exact nature of the charges being brought by Manhattan prosecutors was unclear on Thursday afternoon.

The New York Police Department and the district attorney's office declined to comment on the case.

Entertainment industry heavyweights have distanced themselves from Weinstein, once one of Hollywood's most powerful men, since the accusations became public. The board of the Weinstein Co. fired him and the company itself filed for bankruptcy in March. In 2017, he was expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which presents the Oscars.

A former fixture in the most elite entertainment circles of Manhattan and Los Angeles, Weinstein has since been seen spending time in Scottsdale, Arizona, where The New York Times said he had been seeking treatment for sex addiction.

London's Metropolitan Police have said they are also investigating an allegation of sexual assault against Weinstein, while prosecutors in Los Angeles said in February they were reviewing three accusations of sexual assault against him.

Brafman said in a May court filing that federal prosecutors in New York had opened a separate criminal investigation into the allegations.

Actress Ashley Judd last month sued Weinstein, saying that he cost her a part in 1998 for the film "The Lord of the Rings" after she rejected his sexual advances, charges that Weinstein has denied.

Brafman, Weinstein's lawyer, is known for representing high-profile criminal defendants, including pop star Michael Jackson and Martin Shkreli, the former drug company executive.

In 2011, Brafman represented Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the former head of the International Monetary Fund, over charges, which were eventually dropped, that he sexually assaulted a New York City hotel maid. REUTERS

HOLLYWOOD WOMEN APPLAUD IMPENDING HARVEY WEINSTEIN CHARGES

Women in Hollywood applauded on Thursday after Harvey Weinstein agreed to turn himself into authorities in New York after a months-long investigation into multiple allegations of sexual misconduct.

More than 70 women have accused the once-powerful film producer of sexual impropriety, including rape, since October 2017. Weinstein has denied having nonconsensual sex with anyone.

Weinstein was expected to surrender on Friday morning, a person familiar with the case said. The exact nature of the charges being brought against him by Manhattan prosecutors was unclear.

"BOOM," tweeted Italian actress Asia Argento, who has accused Weinstein of raping her at the Cannes film festival in 1997 when she was 21.

Argento repeated her accusations in an emotional speech at the Cannes festival on Saturday.

Weinstein's Italian attorney said on Saturday that Argento's allegations were "completely false."

Rose McGowan, who was among the first actresses to accuse Weinstein of sexual assault, said his victims were "one step closer to justice."

"I, and so many of Harvey Weinstein's survivors, had given up hope that our rapist would be held accountable by law," McGowan said in a statement. "May this give hope to all victims and survivors everywhere that are telling their truths."

Former "Sopranos" actress Annabella Sciorra, who has said she was sexually assaulted by Weinstein in the 1990s, tweeted "Can't Wait!" followed by "Anyone know where I can get front row seats?"

GETTY IMAGES

"A Wrinkle in Time" director Ava DuVernay, one of the leaders of the Time's Up campaign against sexual harassment in the workplace, posted a link on Twitter to news of Weinstein's expected surrender, adding "Karma NEVER loses an address."

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WEEK 16: 5/21-5/27/18

Trump scraps US-North Korea summit

The president pointed to "tremendous anger and open hostility" displayed by the rogue nation's leader, Kim Jong Un.

President Donald Trump with Vice President Mike Pence, speaks about the canceled summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a bill signing ceremony in the Roosevelt Room of the White House Thursday. GETTY IMAGES

President Donald Trump on Thursday canceled the historical meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that was expected to take place in Singapore on June 12.

Trump released a letter saying, "Based on the tremendous anger and open hostility displayed in your most recent statement, I feel it is inappropriate, at this time, to have this long-planned meeting. … Therefore, please let this letter serve to represent that the Singapore summit, for the good of both parties, but to the detriment of the world, will not take place."

Julian G. Ku, director of international programs at Maurice A. Deane school of law at Hofstra University, gave Metro his insight on the decision, which ended months of diplomatic advances between the two countries.

Here's what you should know:

Why did Trump cancel the meeting with Kim Jong Un? It is hard to say for sure why the meeting was canceled by President Trump. It may simply be a negotiating tactic to make the North Korean government demonstrate its willingness to discuss denuclearization. Or it may simply be because the president feels the North Koreans misled him on the level of seriousness they have toward the talks, and he now realizes the talks would not have accomplished anything.

"Therefore, please let this letter serve to represent that the Singapore summit, for the good of both parties, but to the detriment of the world, will not take place."

Donald Trump

Who wins and who loses after this decision was announced? I think there are no clear winners or losers. President Trump will lose out the possibility of a diplomatic achievement before the 2018 elections, so he faces the most immediate short-term cost. But Kim Jong Un will lose out on the opportunity to win global public recognition of his status as a world leader and to reduce economic pressure on his country. In the long term, I think this will be a bad outcome for North Korea more than for the United States.

Could another summit of this kind be achieved? A new meeting would almost certainly require a better understanding of what each side is willing to discuss and negotiate during such talks. I think an initial meeting of the two countries' foreign ministers or other diplomats would probably be a better way to proceed rather than start with such a high-level meeting. In other words, the secretary of state could speak with his counterpart and lay out a specific set of topics that both sides are willing to discuss.

What role would South Korea and China play in such situation? Both countries are crucially important to making a summit successful. South Korea's support for a meeting is necessary for any successful outcome since it is the country most affected by any decisions there. South Korea has been the primary driver of these peace talks and it has a strong incentive to continue to support talks.

China's support of North Korea is also crucial in pressuring it to enter into negotiations, but also in supporting it when it faces isolation and pressure from the U.S. China's reaction to the cancellation of the meeting may be crucial to whether North Korea relents and returns to the talks.

Threats and pressure have been part of President Trump's negotiation strategy. Is it somewhat similar to what Kim Jong Un does? Could it be the reason that summit was called off? In many ways, President Trump's colorful language is quite similar to the language used by the North Korean regime in previous years. So both sides are now using inflammatory rhetoric to set out their positions. The problem with this approach is that it is easy for each side to insult the other and undermine their relationship through public comments. This may explain why the meeting was ultimately canceled.

MIGUEL VELAZQUEZ, MWN

Pentagon: No change in US military posture after North Korea talks canceled

The U.S. military said Thursday it had not increased the already-high-level of vigilance or changed its posture on North Korea after President Donald Trump called off a historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

"There is a high state of vigilance — the state of vigilance that we always have because they have proven to be unpredictable in the past," Lt. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, joint staff director, said at a Pentagon briefing referring to North Korea.

"I hope we quickly are able to get back to that place, but ultimately, Chairman Kim will have that decision to make for himself."

Mike Pompeo

"But it is not a heightened state of vigilance. It is the normal state of vigilance that we maintain."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Thursday he hoped Pyongyang and Washington will be able to resume talks on dismantling Pyongyang's nuclear program but the decision was ultimately up to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Trump said Thursday that the U.S. military is ready if North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un takes any "foolish" actions. GETTY IMAGES

"I hope we quickly are able to get back to that place, but ultimately Chairman Kim will have that decision to make for himself," Pompeo told a Senate committee in his first comments shortly after Trump canceled a historic summit with Kim that had been scheduled for June 12 in Singapore.

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Surveillance video shows the suspect attacking the other vehicle in Port Richmond on May 22. The suspect and victim have not yet been identified. PHILLY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Philly cops seek hammer-wielding road-rage suspect

Surveillance cameras captured a man smashing the windows of a car and assaulting its driver in Port Richmond on Tuesday afternoon.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Philly cops are seeking the identity of the man who, in an apparent road rage incident, attacked another driver's car with a sledgehammer, smashing its windows, then assaulted the other driver's passenger with the hammer.

The incident occurred under the Betsy Ross Bridge on Tuesday, May 22 around 1:30 in the afternoon, according to police.

Surveillance cameras caught a red pickup truck follow a silver SUV into a parking lot of a business on the 2700 block of Luzerne Street.

Wild surveillance footage shows the truck's driver get out of his car and rush up to the SUV with a sledgehammer and begin striking it repeatedly, smashing the car's windows.

As the SUV tries to drive away, its passenger door opens and the passenger falls out. While the passenger walks back to re-enter the SUV, the pickup's driver can be seen striking him once with the sledgehammer and then again striking the SUV.

Police had not identified either the offender or the victim as of Thursday morning. Anyone with any information about this incident is being asked to call 911, 215-686-TIPS (8477) or text a tip to PPDTIP (773847).

Watch the video at metro.us.

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Southwest Philly urban cowboy finds new home with Bartram's Garden

Malik Divers finds a new home for his "Concrete Cowboys" horseman training and mentoring program, but is in need of apprentices.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Malik Divers, left, is a lifelong rider, but because of various ailments, he can no longer ride the horses he cares for.
ALL PHOTOS KAIT MOORE

After years of uncertainty, an urban cowboy has found a new home for his stables on the edge of Bartram's Garden, where he can keep training the next generation of young horsemen.

"They're good, obedient horses. They're being taken care of the right way," said Malik Divers on Thursday, looking fondly at his horses Shadow and Big Sonny, wandering inside a large corral beside a tiny goat outside their new stables on a serene half-acre of land isolated from the nearby urban traffic.

Divers runs a program he calls "Concrete Cowboys," which trains young men from around the neighborhood to ride and care for horses on their own and become the next generation of black cowboys in Philadelphia.

"If I can get more kids and help them stay away from the streets, it would be a good thing," Divers said. "That's the whole objective, get these kids off the street."

Divers, 57, believes in teaching the next generation about the benefits of working with horses. He learned about caring for horses growing up, avidly going to a stable near 4th and Girard to watch and care for the horses. "When I was young, I had to sit on the step, I couldn't get off the step and I wanted something to do. Finally, I saw some older guys with horses. I followed them down to the stable, and every weekend I would go down there," he said.

Divers said he's been training young riders for some 15 years. In years past, he trained teens to saddle up in an aluminum-fenced lot surrounded by rowhouses, and ride out along nearby Woodland Avenue. When he came under threat of eviction from his landlord, Divers spent time clearing a vacant city-owned lot on Eastwick Avenue with the aim of moving the stables there, but couldn't get permission to build there.

> **"If I can get more kids and help them stay away from the streets, it would be a good thing."**
> Malik Divers

"I was gonna have to give up," he says.

A new solution arose when staff from Bartram's Garden, the historic house and 45-acre park in Southwest Philly, took up Divers' cause and eventually offered to let him use a half-acre of land as a new home for the horses.

"He was facing eviction from his spot, which was in a little industrial slip on the

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Despite having a solid stable of horses, Divers is looking for horsemen to train.

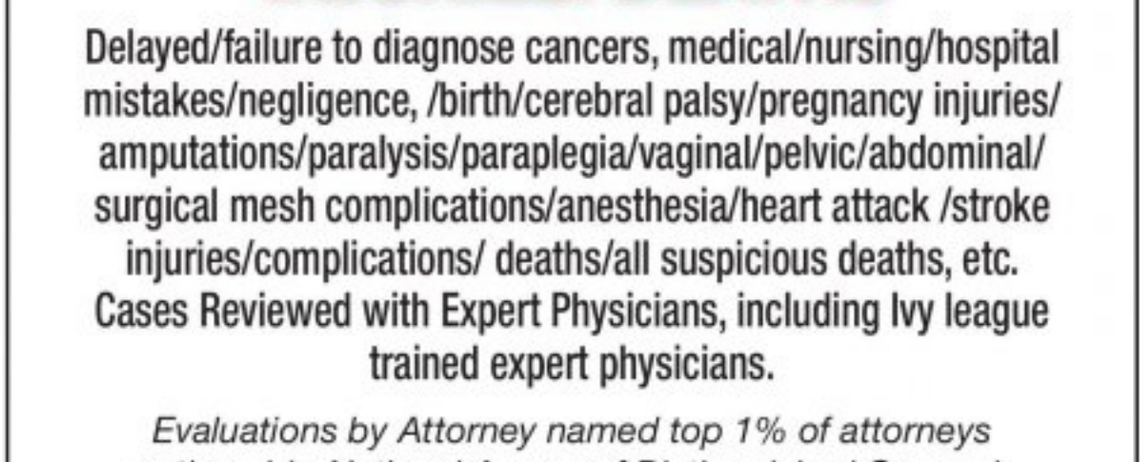
other side of Lindbergh Boulevard," said Justin DiBerardinis, director of programs and partnerships at Bartram's Garden. "We were really impressed with how he took care of his horses. He does a notably good job of running a tight operation, and we were trying to figure out how to help him."

Bartram's found a tiny unoccupied piece of land where Divers has built stables and his horses can have access to fresh grass. In return, he's is providing some night watchman services, as well as the benefit of having his program in the community.

"Malik and his horses are fully welcome at Bartram's Garden," DiBerardinis said. "When people from the neighborhood are doing that kind of work, we want to support it in a big way."

But Divers is in need of new horsemen to train. The last group of riders gradually drifted away as they got older. One was even killed, a victim of gun violence in Philly. With fewer apprentices, Divers cannot care for as many horses. Himself a lifelong rider, he can also no longer ride a horse, due to various health issues.

"I don't ride. I just put it on the kids and I try to tell them, it's on y'all turn to run this, take care of it, but they don't see that picture. So I'm going to keep on going as long as I can, teaching the kids," he said. "I need somebody to be persistent. I want to turn it over to somebody and have them keep it going."



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Jilly Juice recipe creator claims her concoction can regrow limbs

Experts, unsurprisingly, find her claims ridiculous.

MEAGAN MORRIS
letters@metro.us

Imagine if a drink could cure everything that ails you. Have cancer? Drink this and you'll be cured. Lose a limb? Again, chug and it'll grow back. Gay, but don't want to be? Drink up, because this will switch your sexual preferences. This sounds impossible, but the creator of Jilly Juice says her concoction of cabbage and Himalayan sea salt can do all of that — and much more.

Jillian "Mai Tai" Epperly appeared on "Dr. Phil" earlier this week to both promote and defend Jilly Juice. Though she has no medical training, the Ohio woman claims that a gut parasite known as candida is what causes all disease, including genetic conditions like Down syndrome.

Epperly's Jilly Juice recipe is simple: cabbage, water and a lot of salt. Blend it and then allow it to "ferment" at room temperature for a few days, then drink a gallon a day to expel the parasites via "waterfalls," she says.

> **"[Jilly Juice is] absolutely dangerous nonsense."**
>
> David Seres, director of medical nutrition at Columbia University's Irving Medical Center

Also known as violent, explosive diarrhea.

"I'm proud of being a leader of a poop cult," Epperly said in her now-defunct Facebook group, Exposing the Lies Candida: Weaponized Fungus Mainstreaming Mutancy. Followers proudly posted photos of their excrement to show off the parasites they think they're getting out of their bodies.

And, as BuzzFeed pointed out, some people gave the concoction to their infants, then posted photos of diapers full of bloody stool.

Dr. Phil called Epperly's claims "outrageous."

Epperly told Dr. Phil that, though she has no data or proof, she knows that the juice can do amazing things, like cure cancer and autism, and even help people live to 400 years old.

But one man who put his faith in Jilly Juice after a cancer diagnosis found that it didn't actually do anything.

"My dad was really desperate," Taylor Wilmot told BuzzFeed News of her father, Bruce Wilmot. "He was very sad, and he didn't want to die." He later lost his battle with cancer. Epperly blamed his death on not following her protocol closely enough — and said he was already in hospice and, basically, beyond saving.

A growing number of detractors, government agencies and medical experts are trying to stop her from making such wild claims.

"[Jilly Juice is] absolutely dangerous nonsense," David Seres, director of medical nutrition at Columbia University's Irving Medical Center, told BuzzFeed. "I am almost speechless."

Jilly Juice looks similar to a typical green drink, like the ones pictured above. NATASHA BREEN/REDA&CO/UIG VIA GETTY IMAGES

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Actor Morgan Freeman accused of inappropriate behavior, harassment: CNN

At least eight women have accused actor Morgan Freeman of inappropriate behavior or harassment while working with them on film sets or at promotional events, CNN reported Thursday.

CNN said it spoke with 16 people as part of its investigation into the 80-year-old actor, some of whom also alleged inappropriate behavior by Freeman at his production company, Revelations Entertainment.

In a statement, Freeman said he was sorry to anyone who had been made to feel uncomfortable or disrespected.

"Anyone who knows me or has worked with me knows I am not someone who would intentionally offend or knowingly make anyone feel uneasy," the statement said. "I apologize to anyone who felt uncomfortable or disrespected, that was never my intent."

According to CNN, Oscar-winning actor Morgan Freeman has been accused of sexual harassment by at least eight different women. GETTY

Representatives for Freeman and Revelations Entertainment did not respond to requests for further comment. Reuters was unable to independently confirm any of the allegations.

Multiple accusations of sexual misconduct against male actors, filmmakers and agents have roiled Hollywood since October 2017, leading in some cases to resignations and the halting of projects.

CNN said eight people told the network they were victims of what some labeled harassment and others called inappropriate behavior by Freeman. It said eight others told the network they witnessed the actor's alleged misconduct.

CNN also said other sources denied having seen any questionable behavior by the actor, and that those sources described him as being professional on set and in the office.

Freeman, whose career has spanned 50 years and more than 100 movies, won an Oscar in 2005 as best supporting actor for his role as a former boxer in "Million Dollar Baby." REUTERS

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Leaving gross leftovers in the office

Pat King
Grumble Editor

We recently received a Grumble from one of our readers about the many annoying things our co-workers are capable of. The points this reader made resonated with me deeply. So, I felt as though I needed to weigh in. As anyone who knows me can tell you, I'm a pretty easygoing guy. I'd like to this quality follows me into the office environment. But when coworkers leave out food in common areas or take up space in the fridge for days — or even weeks or months — it just bugs me to no end. In some cases, people will leave out food as a nice treat for the rest of the office. But when it's left out after the initial reveal, someone needs to take some ownership of the mess and toss it in the trash. It's even worse when people take up real estate in the fridge with ancient leftovers. Sure, keeping Cheryl's birthday cake after her party was a nice idea so people can pick at it for a few days. But if her party was six months ago and that thing is as stiff as a tombstone, pitch it.

READERS REACT:

"FILTHADELPHIA"

If Philadelphia's Streets Department would return trash and recycling cans/containers "RIGHT SIDE UP" it would help avoid having those items that "didn't make it out" (when "dumped") from becoming "liter" (that "flies around" my Olney neighborhood constantly). I'm 70, and although 100% of my home's trash & recycling gets placed into its proper container & placed at the curb, when those are "returned" upside down, many times there is liter underneath. I pick up what's left on my pavement, but many don't, so breezes bring other's litter ... continuously! It would only take a second for Philly's Sanitation Workers to return all containers upright and it may help greatly to improve on the undesirable image of "FILTHADELPHIA".
- "KC", Metro Philly reader

That cake deserves better. ISTOCK

Too many spam emails!
I am sick of signing up for a mailing list to get occasional updates from a store or business you like but they insist on sending three emails a day. A few even keep doing it when you update your subscription to one a week (If they have that option).
- Mike Turko, Metro US Reader

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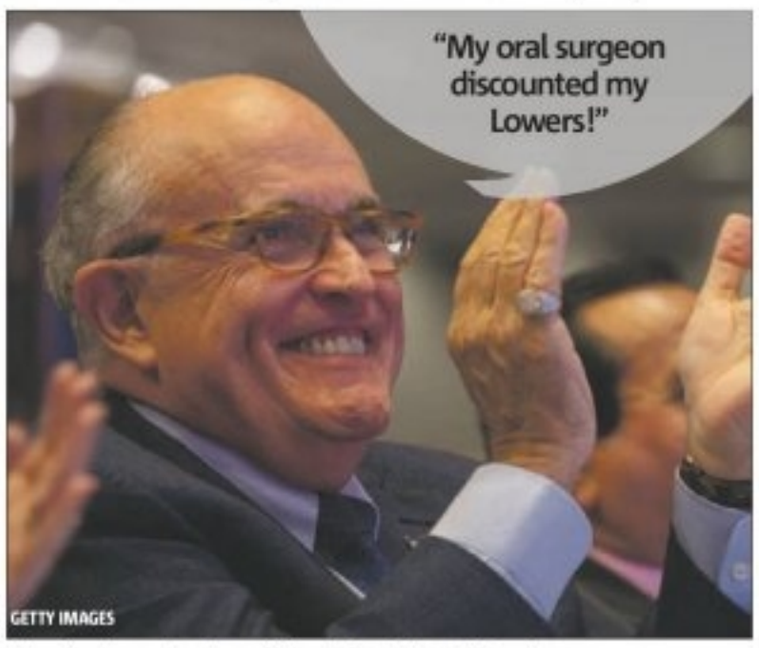

The winning caption from Michael Scott, Metro NY reader.

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Aries Take better care of your health. Avoid situations that involve being subjected to physical challenges. Share your feelings and be honest about your intentions and motives.

Taurus Your desire to get things done will cause you to act prematurely. Find out what's involved before you commit to something precarious.

Gemini Embrace change and make it happen. If you stay in control of what transpires today, you will find the success you are hoping to achieve. Don't settle for less than what you want.

Cancer Put more energy into your personal life and how you treat others. Be imaginative in your approach to finding solutions, and don't scoff at suggestions made by others.

Leo Keep your life simple and your dealings with both peers and family toned down. It will be easy for bad situations to escalate if you aren't mindful of the way others feel.

Virgo Get involved in community events, networking functions and expeditions that spark your interest. Gathering facts and knowledge will help you excel and gain popularity.

Libra A disgruntled attitude will not help you get ahead. Think positive thoughts and spin any negative encounter into something worthwhile. How you handle others will determine your success.

Scorpio Personal improvements will lead to greater happiness and good relations with the people you care about most. Learn from experience and don't make the same mistake twice.

Sagittarius Don't let anyone fully capable of handling matters him — or herself lean on you. If you waste time helping someone else get ahead, you will miss out on an opportunity.

Capricorn Make a statement. Dress to impress and be ready to make a commitment that will change your life, status and future. An unexpected opportunity looks promising.

Aquarius Pour your energy into making home improvements, hosting an event or embarking on a personal change that will encourage you to save more and spend less. Don't follow the crowd.

Pisces What you do to help a cause will be appreciated and will lead to unexpected opportunities. Make plans to spend time with the people you care about most. Romance is in the stars. EUGENIA LAST

WKND

Take another ride in the Millennium Falcon with "Solo: A Star Wars Story." ALL PHOTOS LUCASFILM

How 'Solo' pays homage to the original 'Star Wars' trilogy

Seeds planted four decades ago pay off in the new flick.

REED TUCKER
letters@metro.us

"Solo: A Star Wars Story" is a prequel, as you might have heard. The tale centers on a young Han Solo (Alden Ehrenreich) years before audiences meet him in 1977's "Star Wars." And like most prequels, it aims to flesh out a character's backstory at which has previously only been hinted. It's a tried-and-true Hollywood strategy that has been deployed with everyone from deranged killer Hannibal Lecter to, er, deranged killer Norman Bates.

Precious little about Han Solo's history is revealed in the original "Star Wars" and its sequels, "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi." More details were given in spinoff novels and comic books, but Lucasfilm declared those non-canon in 2014.

As a result, father-and-son "Solo" screenwriters Lawrence and Jonathan Kasdan had to make do with what they had. Here are four lines from the original trilogy that were mined for "Solo" and look to finally be explained some four decades later.

"You've never heard of the Millennium Falcon? It's the ship that made the Kessel run in less than 12 parsecs."
Han in "Star Wars"

Never mind that this line was such a throw-away that "Star Wars" mastermind George Lucas mistakenly used parsec, a measure of distance instead of time. "Solo" explains just what the hell that Kessel run is and why Solo was bragging about it.

"Your ship? Hey, remember, you lost her to me fair and square."
- Han to Lando in "The Empire Strikes Back"

It came as a shock that Lando was the Falcon's original owner. Now "Solo" shows exactly how the craft changed hands over a not-so-friendly game of Sabacc — a made-up card game that "Star Wars" owner Disney failed to register and is now being sued by an unrelated gaming company that snatched up the trademark.

"You know, that ship saved my life quite a few times."
- Lando in "The Empire Strikes Back"

Now we get to see some of those times, as a young Calrissian (Donald Glover) evades the evil Empire, pirates and Lovecraftian space squids.

"Han Solo. I'm captain of the Millennium Falcon."
- Han in "Star Wars"

Simple line. But as Disney CEO Bob Iger promised last year, "Solo" does indeed explain how the title character "got his name." Now if someone could explain where "Mon Mothma" comes from.

Lando Calrissian's pansexuality

Lando is pansexual, Jonathan Kasdan recently told the Huffington Post. "And I love the fluidity — sort of the spectrum of sexuality that Donald appeals to and that droids are part of." In the movie, Lando has a curvaceous robot companion L3-37 (Phoebe Waller-Bridge), but it's unclear exactly how close they are. There are hints, though, to Lando's wide variety of interests. You be the judge.

"Everything you heard about me is true." - *Lando*
"I thought she loved me."
- *Lando on L3-37*
I'm an expert with intertwined celestial bodies."
- *Lando*
"You're adorable."
- *Lando to Han*
"You done flirting?"
- *L3-37 to Lando about Han*

The party starts when Lando walks in

"Solo" writers Jon and Lawrence Kasdan on how the galaxy's sexiest gambler very nearly steals the film.

EVA KIS
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Donald Glover landed the part of Lando Calrissian immediate. LUCASFILM

As soon as Donald Glover walked in, there was no doubt who would play the young smooth-talking gambler Lando Calrissian in the Star Wars Anthology film "Solo."

"When he came in to audition, we said, 'There's no question the auditions are over,'" recalls Lawrence Kasdan, who co-wrote "Solo" with his son Jon, in an exclusive interview with Metro. "If you met him today, you would feel the same thing — he's an extraordinary character, a major artist, he loves this character among the many things he loves and [as a writer] you say, 'Oh my God, this is an incredible resource for seeing young Lando.'"

It's fair to say the Kasdans' origin story about the life (and love) of Han Solo before a Jedi master, a farmboy, a princess and two droids derail his smuggling career has been somewhat hijacked by Glover's performance.

His even smoother and sexier take on Lando has claimed much of the internet buzz since the first trailer for the movie premiered. Then, Jon Kasdan shook a giant leap for sexual freedom in the galaxy when he revealed Lando to be pansexual — as in women, men, droids, aliens, etc. "There's a fluidity to Donald and Billy Dee's [portrayal of Lando's] sexuality," he told the Huffington Post last week. "I love the fluidity — sort of the spectrum of sexuality that Donald appeals to and that droids are a part of."

Or, as intergalactic pragmatist Glover put it to Entertainment Weekly: "How can you not be pansexual in space? Yeah, he's coming on to everybody. I mean, yeah, whatever. It just didn't seem that weird to me 'cause I feel like if you're in space it's kind of like, the door is open!"

(Lando may be the first to be embraced as openly pansexual, but Vice Admiral Holdo's dialogue with General Leia Organa in "The Last Jedi" novelization hinted at her own preference for all the goods the galaxy may proffer.)

Out of all the threads in Han's life the Kasdans could've picked up, meeting Lando was the one Jon hoped they could tell even before Glover became involved. "I was particularly personally excited to visit Lando as a younger man. I loved that character as a kid and growing up," he tells Metro.

"But as excited as I was, I don't think either of us had the foggiest notion that Donald would come in and make it something beyond our wildest dreams. You just hope that magic happens occasionally, and then it does and you can only just watch it."

So when is Lando's own spinoff coming? Lucasfilm has certainly noticed the buzz, and it's only a matter of time.

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Chewbacca actor says he can beat LeBron James one-on-one

Actor and former basketball player Joonas Suotamo opens up about "Solo: A Star Wars Story."

MATT JUUL
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A long time ago, in a galaxy that's not so far away, Joonas Suotamo hoped to make it big as a basketball player.

While the 6'10" Pennsylvania State University alum only got to play as a pro in his native Finland, the baller-turned-actor found a new use for his height: taking over for the legendary Peter Mayhew as Chewbacca. Suotamo first got his Wookie on as a body double for Mayhew in "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" before receiving the gig full-time for "The Last Jedi."

The Finnish star is back as Chewbacca in "Solo: A Star Wars Story," which opens in theaters this weekend. Suotamo isn't the only one who's subbing in for a "Star Wars" icon, as Alden Ehrenreich is now playing a younger Han Solo in place of Harrison Ford.

We caught up with Suotamo about his experience filming "Solo," if he thinks he can ball with LeBron James and if he'll be back as the Wookiee for "Episode IX."

How does the start of Han and Chewbacca's relationship in "Solo" compare to the end of their friendship in "Force Awakens"?
It's very interesting, the beginning of any relationship, but especially Han and Chewie's. All I can say is that it's not an easy one. It took me completely by surprise how they do end up meeting for the first time. It's very interesting to see on screen. They did a fantastic job at introducing all these characters and making it really feel like a spontaneous adventure story, where you don't know what's going to happen even though, in the back of your mind, you can kind of get the idea. Things can go either way in this film, and that's what I love about the feel of this movie.

Alden just did such a fantastic job. From day one, he was really prepared. He had studied a lot of "Star Wars" and knew a lot of terminology for the character and what it meant. He had been a fan as well all his life. I was really happy to be working with him because, unlike Harrison, I could feel a friendly connection there in the sense that we're both young guys who grew up with "Star Wars" and get to play these characters. He just really made it his own. I love that he's now getting the recognition that he most surely deserves.

Find out how Han met Chewie in "Solo: A Star Wars Story." LUCASFILM

Considering you were big into basketball before joining the world of "Star Wars," what's your prediction for the Celtics-Cavaliers series?
I'm really torn. I would love to see what the king can do, but I think the Celtics are really tough this year. I went to see them one time play the Raptors. They're a really solid team with a great coach. The Cavs are the underdogs, so I guess I want to see the Cavs come back in the series.

Do you think Chewbacca—or rather you as Chewbacca—could take LeBron James in a one-on-one game?
I think as soon as I put that hair suit on, I mean, I get a couple extra inches in my vertical. Surely there would be no one to stop Chewbacca in a basketball game.

Going back to "Star Wars," will you return for "Episode IX"?
All I will say is that J.J. [Abrams] is directing "Episode IX" and I would love to be involved. That's all I'm going to say.

What about a Chewbacca solo movie? Who would you want to team up with if that ever happened?
That would be exciting, wouldn't it? I think it would be very cool to team up with a group of stranded Jedi. That would be a very cool thing to happen.

"Solo: A Star Wars Story" hits theaters May 25.

MEET THE CREATURES OF 'SOLO'

We've come a long way from the days of 1977's occasionally lo-fi "Star Wars," in which one of the cantina scene aliens got his glowing eyes from a (visible) flashlight jammed in the back of his head.

The crew behind "Solo: A Star Wars Story" had better tech — as well as a healthier budget — to work with when it came to creating its dizzying array of exotic creatures. In total, some 500 designs for new aliens crossed the drawing board.

Here are three that made the cut and can now look forward to living forever on toy store shelves.

REED TUCKER

ALL PHOTOS BY LUCASFILM

MOLOCH: The helmeted villain is a member of the White Worms gang and hunts Han Solo on his home planet of Corellia.

SIX EYES: Looking like an irradiated cow, the creature can be found gambling at the Sabacc table, using his extra eyes to spy on other players.

QUAY TOLSITE: The angular-headed baddie is affiliated with the Pyke crime syndicate and runs a mining operation on Kessel.

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Michelle Wolf's big 'Break'

"The Break with Michelle Wolf" debuts on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

The "Daily Show" alum's new late-night show premieres on Netflix this weekend.

ANDREW HUSBAND
letters@metro.us

After two seasons, Netflix canceled Chelsea Handler's "Chelsea" in October, ending the streaming service's first foray into original talk-show programming.

The vacuum didn't last long, however, as David Letterman's monthly "My Next Guest" and Joel McHale's weekly "The Joel McHale Show" premiered in January and February 2018. If that weren't enough, Netflix also announced it was giving former "The Daily Show" correspondents Hasan Minhaj and Michelle Wolf their own late night-esque programs.

Minhaj's won't air until sometime later this year, but "The Break With Michelle Wolf" drops its first weekly episode Sunday, May 27. Billed as a half-hour variety and sketch series, Wolf introduced "The Break" in a short trailer previewing what the first episode might look like.

"There's a lot going on in the world right now," she says. "The point is, we're all going to die." And much like her old gigs at "The Daily Show" and "Late Night With Seth Meyers," Wolf's "The Break" looks like your typical late-night comedy show.

Except for the fact that Wolf is a woman, unlike Letterman, McHale and Minhaj. Along with Samantha Bee on TBS, Robin Thede on BET and Sarah Silverman on Hulu, the inclusion of her series now means that four women will be hosting late night talk shows in the U.S. Busy Philipps recently announced she will host a show on E! in the future.

This is great news, and the comedian's late-night experience proves she can handle her own show. Yet this isn't the only reason Wolf's star has been steadily on the rise for the past few years.

Most recently, she caught the country's attention thanks to her performance at the 2018 White House Correspondents' Dinner last month. Not only did Wolf refuse to shy away from roasting the absent President Donald Trump, but she also joked about Sarah Huckabee Sanders while the press secretary sat just a few seats to her left.

Many criticized Wolf for her quips about Sanders, but the comic stood her ground on social media and in subsequent interviews. "I wouldn't change a single word," she told NPR. "I'm very happy with what I said, and I'm glad I stuck to my guns."

The episode may have been a resounding wakeup call for broadcast, cable and streaming audiences largely unfamiliar with Wolf's work, and that's a good thing. Before her WHCD performance, her biggest claim to fame was the critically acclaimed comedy special "Michelle Wolf: Nice Lady," which premiered on HBO in 2017. Now that "The Break" is almost here and practically everyone knows who she is, however, that's all about to change.

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Cole Hamels is currently playing for a last-place team in the Texas Rangers. GETTY IMAGES

Could the Phillies bring back Hamels?

Hamels will be one of the biggest names on the MLB trade market.

JOVAN ALFORD
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After starting off the season with a record of 1-5 and fans calling for new manager Gabe Kapler's job, the Philadelphia Phillies figured things out and are a half game out of first place in the NL East.

Sporting a record of 28-19, the young Phillies trusted their own process, thanks to good approaches at the plate and great pitching performances from aces Aaron Nola and Jake Arrieta. The Phillies' pitching staff, led by Nola and Arrieta, has an ERA of 3.36, which is second in the National League and third in Major League Baseball this season. Only the Milwaukee Brewers (3.34) and the defending World Series champion Houston Astros (2.39) have lower ERAs.

In terms of Nola and Arrieta, they are simply dominating on the mound as a dynamic 1-2 punch. Nola has a record of 6-2 with an ERA of 2.37 and is striking out 57 hitters over 64.2 innings pitched. Arrieta put together a good performance against the Atlanta Braves on Wednesday night — striking out seven over 6.2 innings pitched and giving up zero earned runs. His season stats are impressive, too, with a 2.45 ERA and a record of 4-2.

But the Phillies cannot just lean on those two pitchers to get them through the dog days of summer and into the postseason. Someone else needs to step up.

Could it be Nick Pivetta, who is having a career season thus far (4-2, 3.23 ERA)? Or what about Vince Velasquez, who is showing again that he is a strikeout machine (64 Ks)?

This is where a familiar name could come into play for the Phillies as the MLB trade deadline approaches.

Who is that familiar name you might ask? It is none other than former Phillies' ace and current Texas Rangers starting pitcher Cole Hamels.

Hamels' name is starting to heat up on the hot stove as the Rangers are in last place in the AL West (12.5 games behind the Astros). With Texas fading quickly, they might be looking to press the reset button and sell off their veteran pieces.

Through 10 games pitched, the southpaw is leading the Rangers' pitching staff with an ERA of 3.38 to go along with a 3-4 record. He has 64 strikeouts in 58.2 innings pitched but has given up 11 home runs thus far.

Hamels' numbers are by no means horrible. But it is tough to win many games when your offense is only scoring 4.24 runs per game, which is below the major league average of 4.38.

That said, a Phillies-Hamels trade could be a perfect reunion. If he came back to the Phillies he would not have to be the ace of the staff. He could easily slide in as the third starter behind Nola and Arrieta. It would be an All-Star starting staff with Pivetta, Velasquez, and eventually Jerad Eickhoff rounding out the rotation.

Also, the Phillies can afford to take on Hamels' contract as he is making $23.5 million this season with a team option in 2019. This means that the Phillies could potentially carry this three-headed monster into next season.

Furthermore, the Phillies are one of the nine teams Hamels cannot block a trade to, according to Jon Morosi.

All the signs are there for the Phillies to make a competitive offer for their former ace if they are still in the hunt. They may have to give up some young prospects in the process, but as long as it is not Sixto Sanchez, then why not bring him back?

Phils vs. Blue Jays

After taking two of three games from the Braves earlier this week, the Phillies will take on the Blue Jays for a three-game series at Citizens Bank Park.

The Phillies come into this series with a record of 28-19 and only being 1Ž2 game out of first place in the NL East. The Blue Jays are 23-26 and in third place in the AL East. A player to watch in this series for Toronto is third baseman Yangervis Solarte. Solarte is batting .265 with a team-leading 11 home runs and 31 RBI.

Probable pitching matchups:

Friday: Sam Gaviglio (TOR) vs. Zach Eflin (PHI)
Saturday: TBA vs. Aaron Nola (PHI)
Sunday: J.A. Happ (TOR) vs. Nick Pivetta (PHI)

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The 'other' Bridges a good fit for Sixers, too

Michigan State product Miles Bridges would be a strong addition to the 76ers lineup.

JAVON ALFORD
javon.alford@metro.us

Earlier this month, the Philadelphia 76ers received great news, after bowing out in five games to the Boston Celtics in the Eastern Conference semifinals. They were awarded the No. 10 pick in the 2018 NBA Draft.

With the 10th pick, the Sixers could use it to draft a top college prospect or use it as a trade chip to acquire an established NBA player. If they choose to do the former, there are a few players in this year's draft class that could help them immediately.

Currently, many mock drafts have the Sixers taking former Villanova standout forward Mikal Bridges with the 10th overall selection. It is not surprising to see Bridges' name attached to the Sixers as he is a local kid and gives the Sixers' a 3-and-D wing. Many believe he would be an upgrade over NBA All-Defensive First Team selection Robert Covington.

However, there is another Bridges that should be on the radar of Sixers fans and that is sophomore Miles Bridges out of Michigan State. Miles, just like Mikal, is a 3-and-D type player and fits in today's NBA.

He also shot a ridiculous 38.9 percent from 3-point range on 5.1 attempts per game and shot 48.6 percent from the field. Bridges' athleticism and scoring ability is what intrigues many NBA teams.

Miles Bridges could've been a top 10 pick in last year's draft, but decided to come back for his sophomore season. Coming back for his second year of college hoops helped Bridges tremendously as he upped his points per game total to 17.1, assists to 2.7, and shot considerably better from the free throw line (85.3 percent).

When you turn on Bridges' tape, there is a lot of good, and you see a potential fit for the Sixers.

For starters, his athleticism is out of this world as he can jump out of the gym. If picked by the Sixers, best believe he would be on the receiving end of a lot of Ben Simmons' assists. While the dunks are impressive, his all-around offensive game is intriguing.

Unlike Covington, who Bridges would be essentially replacing in the Sixers' lineup, he can put the ball on the floor and looks comfortable doing it. Many times this past season we saw Covington drive to the basket for a lay-up and it looked downright awkward.

Miles Bridges thrived at Michigan State. GETTY IMAGES

For a guy such as Bridges, it adds a dimension to his offensive game and does not allow teams to take him out of his rhythm.

On the other hand, Bridges cannot create his own shot, which was a problem for the Sixers this season. This problem reared its head against the Celtics as the Sixers could not do anything in the half court. It was either Joel Embiid or bust, or pray the 3-point shot starts falling.

The former Spartan forward also has good size and length to work with. At the NBA Combine, he was measured at 6-foot-5 without shoes, 6-foot-7 with shoes, and a wingspan of 6-9.

Bridges' size helps him when driving to the basketball, rebounding, and on defense. If you take a look at Bridges' offensive rating this past season (ORtg) it was 118.2 and defensive rating (DRtg) of 95.5. Both numbers were an improvement from his freshman campaign.

It should be interesting to see if the Sixers take Miles Bridges if he is available at 10. He is a high-flying talented and could be an instant contributor for the Sixers next season.

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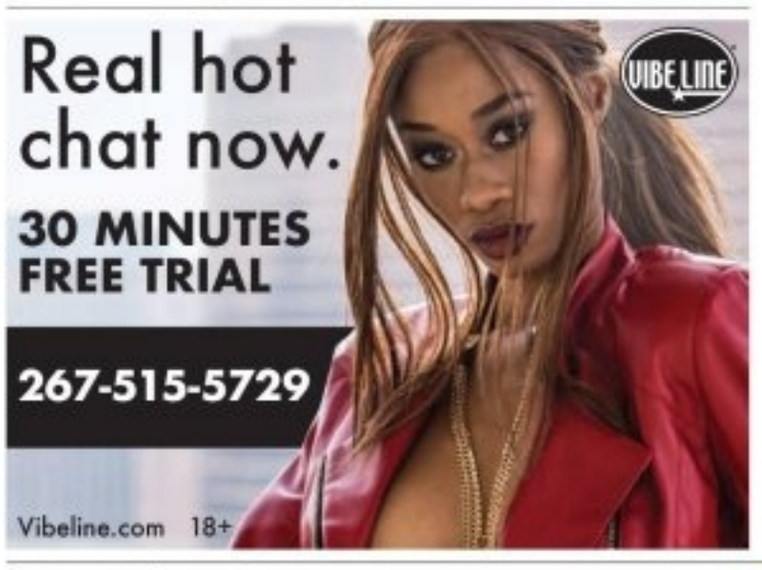

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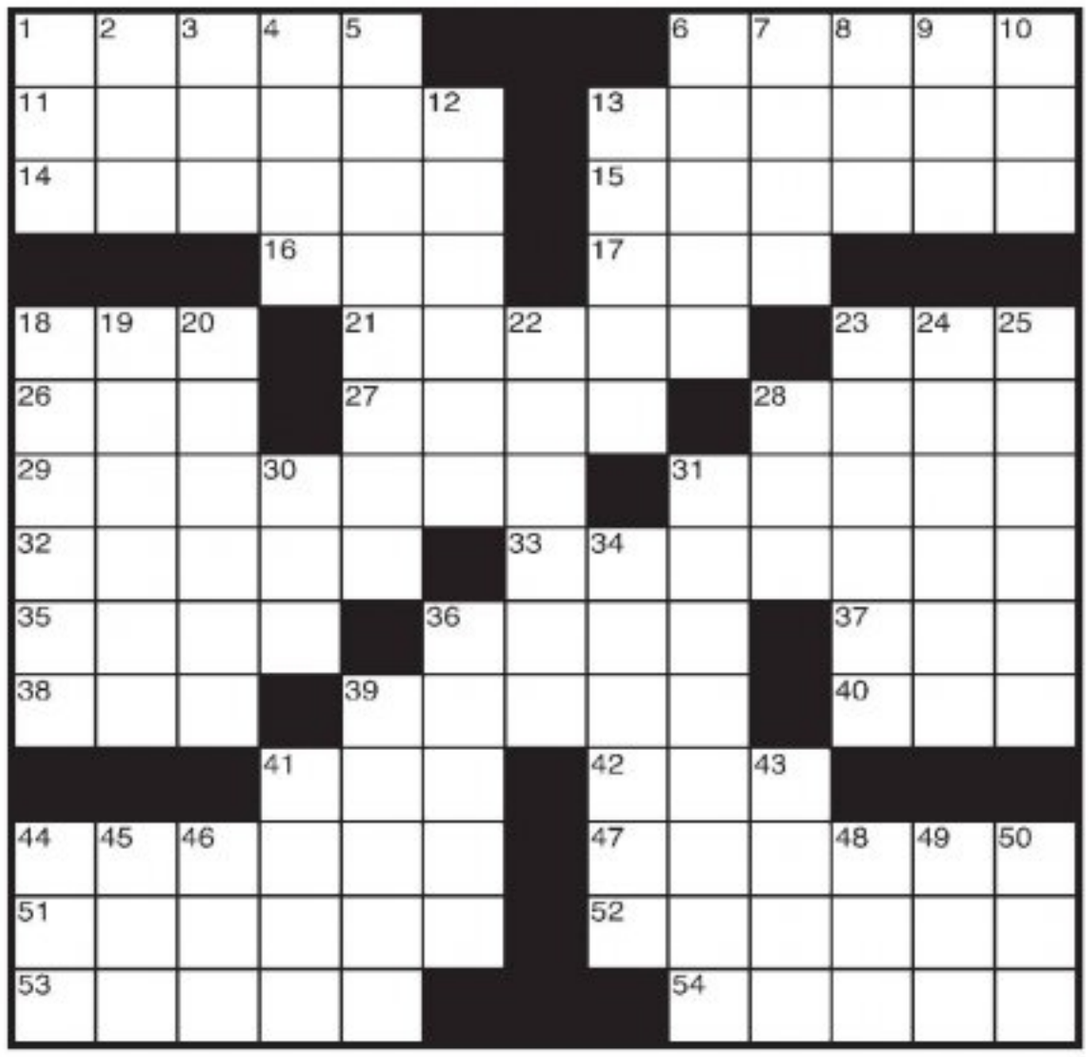

ACROSS

1 Suppress completely
6 Wrapping paper
11 Raamuffin
13 Wig
14 Lead on
15 Floated down the river
16 Laptops, briefly
17 Vistor from Melmac
18 Near the stern
21 New York City
23 Moo goo - pan
26 TGIF part
27 Author's need
28 Use a blowtorch
29 Hay fever culprit
31 Small-time
32 Pungent
33 Monogram character
35 Principal
36 Veld grazers
37 Architect's wing
38 Winding curve
39 Take out to dinner
40 Female rel.
41 Tract of open land
42 Goose egg
44 Split
47 Less distant
51 Fancy, as a verb
52 Roll by
53 Humdrum
54 Ginger cookies

DOWN

1 What, in Serville
2 Coffee brewer
3 Fake it
4 Send, as a parcel
5 Made an impolite noise
6 Sluggish marsupial
7 Elizabethan collar
8 Fitting
9 Charge
10 Mr. Danson
12 Get cozy
13 Leaflet
18 Chalet(hyph.)
19 Brawl
20 It joins the Euphrates
22 Trace element
23 Bottled spirits
24 Caustic solution
25 Flirtations
28 Repartee pro
30 Collect a bet
31 Makes moonshine
34 Subtle difference
36 Jar
39 Earth, to Pierre
41 Cafe au -
43 Give credit
44 Banned insect killer
45 Constantly, to Poe
46 Air-pump meas.
48 Hydrotherapy haven
49 Sixth sense
50 Lawyer's thing

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easy

				1	6			
8			3	2			5	
		9					4	2
	9	1	8		4	3		
3								1
		5	1		2	4	8	
7	1					8		
	8			6	1			5
			7	8				

hard

8				2		6	9	
			9		7		3	
	3	2				1		7
		9	7				6	
	2			8			7	
	7				9	3		
3		5				9	4	
	4		6		5			
	9	8		1				6

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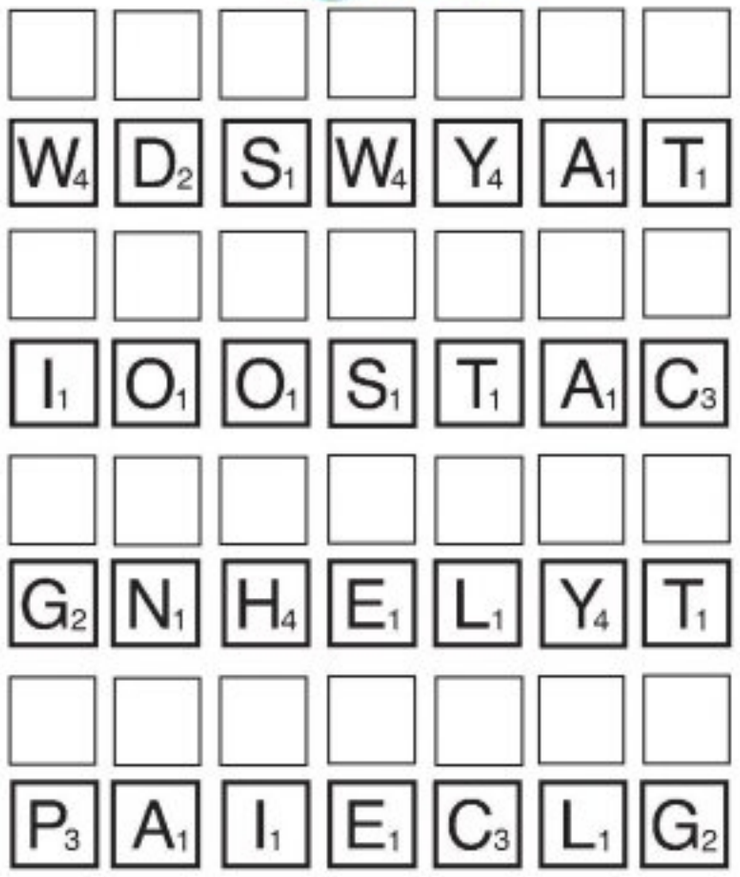

PAR SCORE 115-125

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

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Yesterday's Scrabble answers.

D2 E1 F4 I1 A1 N1 T1
O1 P3 P3 R1 E1 S1 S1
P3 O1 R1 N1
P3 U1 T1 T1 O1

RACK 1 = 61
RACK 2 = 64
RACK 3 = 12
RACK 4 = 7
JUDD'S TOTAL 144

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E	E	O	■	I	D	E	A	■	U	F	O	S		
C	R	U	S	A	D	E	R	■	M	O	P	E		
S	A	L	I	N	E	■	C	A	M	U	S	■		
■	■	■	A	I	D	A	■	W	I	L	Y	■		
L	O	A	M	S	■	V	I	L	E	■	■	■		
O	F	F	■	T	R	I	M	■	S	A	G	E		
T	A	R	A	■	N	A	P	A	■	L	A	C		
■	■	■	D	U	S	T	■	W	A	L	D	O		
■	D	E	E	R	■	E	D	E	N	■	■	■		
■	R	I	L	L	S	■	A	S	T	E	R	S		
M	I	D	I	■	C	O	L	O	S	S	A	L		
O	V	E	N	■	A	H	E	M	■	P	R	E		
S	E	R	E	■	N	O	S	E	■	Y	E	W		

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